

NAURU

DRAFT STATEMENT
By Hon. Lyn-Wanan Kam, M.P.
Member of Parliament

Session 3 – Regional Monitoring and review mechanisms for implementation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr Chair,

As this is my first time to take the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption as Chair of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2015.

Nauru is a small island developing State (SIDS) we are recognized as a special case for Sustainable Development given our unique and particular challenges. As the smallest member of the United Nations family Nauru supports a *universal* and *inclusive* post 2015 Agenda and we believe that these overarching principles are central to ensuring that we leave no State behind.

Nauru is of the view that the functions of the monitoring and accountability framework vis-à-vis the follow-up and review framework are a significant component of this process. Furthermore, we need an accountability mechanism for the commitments made in the post-2015 development agenda in particular the SDG goals and targets to ensure that we achieve them.

For us, a form of monitoring to track progress is when regional commissions and the High Level Political (HLPF) reviews and follows up the SDGs at the regional and global level. However, if there are no provision in such a framework for those States unable to meet their commitments, how then would the HLPF address these concerns? It is important for the international community, the UN system and especially the regional commissions to address these gaps. How would we make progress in the absence of an accountability mechanism? Would there be assistance for targeted support to States who are lagging behind, to enable them to get on track and stay on track? It

is absolutely essential to have a mechanism in the follow-up and review process that addresses the needs of countries in special situations such as SIDS.

We have learnt from the outcomes of the SIDS Conferences, that those commitments pronounced by the international community cannot be easily tracked in terms of

implementation due to the nature of commitments and the lack of a proper assessment system.

Currently we are in the process of developing a mechanism for the SIDS partnerships framework whereby commitments made in Samoa by governments and multi-stakeholders are to be assessed for progress. Such a model, if successful, will assure that there is real delivery on the ground rather than lip service. This is a new initiative yet to be proven successful, nevertheless, in order to ensure commitment to this process we need to have an accountability mechanism in place.

We also believe that the UN system is challenged in its ability to review progress on the existing internationally agreed commitments and we think that such a mechanism that assesses progress will help States stay on track towards the achievement of the SDG Goals and targets more effectively.

Mr. Chair,

On the issue of implementation, there is a need for a comprehensive plan of action for this data revolution to take place at the national level. Nauru needs a national SDG monitoring framework that measures our progress adequately and effectively. We will require the support of the United Nation system in particular regional commissions, partners and the international community to meet our level of ambition in developing and establishing the national SDG monitoring framework.

The challenges range from the gaps in human and institutional capacity, technology, data gaps, quality of available data, the need for baseline data for comparable measurement and methodological standards of data to measure our progress. It is clear we need to ensure that the SDGs are viewed not a liability but as an opportunity for our national governments with appropriate regional and international support to participate in this common global vision for a sustainable future.

We welcome the means of implementation on finance, capacity building and technology transfer to build the national capacity, to have a baseline data with which to monitor, assess and report on SDGs and the Samoa Pathway. In this regard, we call for targeted support for governments in developing the SDG national monitoring framework early and this will allow us to report our national progress in a way that will feed into the regional and global level processes more effectively. We need to ensure that national reporting requirements are simple and to be done in the least burdensome way for States especially SIDS.

Finally, we support a follow-up structure, which envisions a gradual phase-in that allows national governments the opportunity to integrate the SDGs into the national planning processes followed by a phase to report on their implementation.

I thank you.